

The Convention.

(Continued from page one.)

called attention to the fact that the matter had been brought before the Convention by letters from Rev. J. B. Morgan and Rev. C. A. Eaton, D. D., read on Saturday. After some discussion it was resolved that Hon. H. R. Emmerson and other members of the Convention who had been delegates to the Convention in Winnipeg should be a committee to prepare a report to the Convention on the subject.

HOME MISSIONS

The Home Mission report for Nova Scotia was presented by Rev. A. Cohoon, secretary-treasurer of the Board.

The usual detailed report as to the condition of the work on the different mission fields of the several Associations is prefaced by the following remarks:

Your Board have much pleasure in presenting to you their 23rd Annual Report. In doing so they would remind you of the impossibility of satisfactorily reporting a work in which the spiritual element so largely prevails. To tell the number of sermons preached, pastoral visits made and other labors performed is easy, but of the soul travail of those who bear the burden and responsibility of the work, and of the missionaries who toil amid discouraging circumstances and pray, or try to pray, in faith and wait in hope, who but him who knoweth all, shall tell the story.

The vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev. B. H. Thomas, who removed from the province, has been filled by the appointment of Rev. David Price. The frequent meetings of the Board have been well attended, and all the business has received careful attention. Every possible effort has been put forth to keep all our Mission fields supplied with efficient pastors. These efforts have been largely successful, but in a few cases the results aimed at have not been attained. A large measure of assistance has been rendered to ministers in obtaining settlements on other than Mission fields, as well as to self-supporting churches in settling pastors. While no special record or even mention has been made of this service from year to year, the amount of labor it involves is very considerable, and the benefits of the denomination are, we believe, by no means small.

In addition to a tabular statement of the labors and labor for the year the report gives the following

SUMMARY.

Of the 49 fields now on the roll 30 have had regular pastoral labor throughout the year, 8 for the greater part of the year, 8 for a few months, and 3 have had but little. The aggregate of labor is 1,563 weeks. Preaching services, 3,599, other meetings 3,045, religious visits 9,437, baptized 81, and received by letter and experience 52.

The grants to the churches amount to \$3,818.94; to 71 churches in Nova Scotia, and \$545.17 to 10 churches in Prince Edward Island.

Meeting houses have been completed and opened at Murray River, P. E. I., and at Blue Mountain, Kings Co., N. S.

The Glace Bay, Newport and Chebogue churches have become self-supporting. On the other hand four fields, viz., Osborne, Shelburne, Milton, Yarmouth County and Diligent River have become dependent on the Board.

Other matters contained in the report are as follows:

GENERAL MISSIONARY.

The experience of the past two years, without a General Missionary, has deepened the conviction of the Board as to the usefulness of this agency in our work. We are glad therefore to be able to report that Rev. A. F. Baker, whose fitness for the work has been well proved, has accepted the appointment of the Board and will enter upon the work September 1st.

DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

In their report for 1894 the Board asked the district organizations to assume closer relations to the Board and co-operate in the supervision of the Mission fields, the settlement of pastors on the fields and also to keep the claims of Home Missions and other departments of our denominational work before the churches. The Board desires to recognize the useful service rendered by many of the organizations and again asks for the fullest co-operation along the lines indicated.

FINANCIAL.

The government of Nova Scotia has returned to the Board the \$100 succession duties taken from the bequest of the late G. P. PAYZANT. A bequest of \$25 has been received from J. W. Dobson, Reg., executor of the estate of the late Emily Martell, of Glace Bay. Mrs. Lydia C. Wheelock also left the Board \$50, but as this was paid to the Treasurer of Denominational Funds, along with other bequests, it appears in that report.

The Board has been informed by B. H. Eaton, D. C. L., that in consequence of the Baptist Book and Tract Society ceasing to carry on colportage, the income of \$500 legacy of the late Rev. David Shaw, of Fall River, Halifax county, is henceforth to be paid to the Home Mission Board of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces, to be used by them in sustaining Home Missionaries in destitute parts of Nova Scotia.

The executor of the estate of the late Gilbert White, of Sussex, N. B., has paid over to this Board \$1000. This together with the interest from the Noah Webb fund, has been paid to R. G. Halsey, treasurer of the New Brunswick Home Mission Board.

The income for our work of the year from all sources was \$3,823.76. The expenditure \$4,498.64, so that there is a deficit on the work of the year of \$675.88, and this too in a year when we have had no general missionary. Brethren, we call special attention to this matter. You are anxious and rightly so, that this work should be pushed, and in your District Meetings you recommend grants and urge advance, but are you as careful to provide means for carrying on the work? It seems to us that the work of gathering funds for the Lord's work is not being taken hold of by the churches as it should be, but is left too largely to societies in the churches.

THE WORK OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

As the Corresponding Secretary has notified the Board that he cannot longer carry the burden of this work, and

as it becomes necessary for some other provision to be made, it may be well to glance backward and note how the work has been provided for in the past. The present secretary, who was for a time the secretary of the Board of the Home Mission Union of Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, was appointed to this work at the organization of the Board in 1879. He was then pastor of the Hebron church, and until 1883 the work was done without cost to the Board, save that in 1881, \$200 was paid for supply and travelling expense, so as to enable the secretary to visit the associations and as many of the Mission fields as possible. For three years, from 1883 to 1888, \$300 per year was paid in order to give the secretary some assistance in his pastoral work and enable him to have closer supervision of the Mission fields. In 1889, at the request of the Board, he resigned his pastorate and gave his whole time to the work, except a small portion used in collecting outstanding subscriptions to college funds. At this time he was made treasurer of the Board as well. This arrangement continued till August 1895, when in consequence of the work being very much lessened because the operations of the Board were confined to Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, the Board consented to his giving half his time to the Governors of Acadia University. To the work of Corresponding Secretary there was added in 1892 the work of Treasurer of Denominational Funds for Nova Scotia.

During the past year in the half time devoted to this work, in addition to the correspondence and management of the finances and the work as treasurer of the denominational funds, he has visited three associations, five district meetings, ten Mission fields, and delivered sixty-five sermons and addresses.

CHURCH EDIFICE FUND.

Nothing has been done in this department, not because there was no call for help, but because there has been no income. As this department is to receive the Home Mission portion of the 20th Century Fund, it was not thought best to make a separate appeal for funds for this work, but patiently wait till the 20th Century Fund is gathered.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

The session was opened by the reading of the Scriptures and prayer by Rev. H. H. Saunders. The report of the Treasurer for Denominational Funds for New Brunswick and P. E. Island, (Rev. Dr. Manning) was presented.

A general statement showing receipts from Associations and W. M. A. Societies is as follows:

Table with columns: NAME OF ASSOCIATION, Amount contributed, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Acadia University, Ministerial Education, Ministerial Relief and Aid, North-West Missions, Grand Ligne Missions, W. M. A. Societies, Total. Includes sub-column 'Amount retained last year by request paid over to H. M. Board of N. B.' with values like \$118.80, \$118.80, etc.

CONDENSED STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.

Table listing receipts from various associations: N. B. Western Association, N. B. Southern Association, N. B. Eastern Association, P. E. I. Association. Includes sub-totals for 'Amount retained last year and paid over' and a final total of \$5985.60.

Dr. Manning reported moneys received on account of Twentieth Century Fund from churches and individuals amounting to \$151. Mr. Cohoon reported as received for the Fund \$487.00.

The report of the Treasurer of Denominational Funds for Nova Scotia was presented by Rev. A. Cohoon. The report is prefaced by the following remarks:

Your Treasurer regrets that his sixth annual report is not as encouraging as the last. Instead of \$16,016.31 thus reported, the receipts for the year just ended have been only \$10,575.64. In explanation of this large falling off it was stated by Mr. Cohoon that the receipts of the preceding year had included a large sum, the result of a special canvass for the northwest work, and also some large special donations to Foreign Missions.

Notices have been sent to the pastors or clerks at the several quarters came round, urging that collections be taken for the work, and in such other ways as his time would permit, the treasurer has tried to increase the fund. Envelopes have been offered to all and sent when asked for. A large part of the postage is for sending out these envelopes. Many of our small churches have done nobly, but some of the large churches are a disappointment.

Rev. E. Bosworth, Field Secretary of the Grand Ligne Mission, has reported to me \$306.15 sent direct to the Treasurer of the Grand Ligne Mission, but the report came after the books were closed, and so could not be placed to the credit of the churches. This we very much regret, as we desire all the churches to have full credit for the moneys raised. If churches and schools would send all amounts direct to the Treasurer of Denominational Funds these omissions would not occur.

CONDENSED STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.

Table listing receipts: From Western Association \$3274.18, Central Association 4077.55, Eastern Association 3054.06, African Association 15.00, General Receipts 154.85.

PAYMENTS.

Table listing payments: To A. & W. Mackinlay, blank book \$ 3.45, Geo. A. McDonald, letter blanks, 1900 5.10, Postage, Stationery, &c. 28.75, Home Mission Board 2883.01, Foreign Mission Board 3892.00, Acadia University 1508.71, Ministerial Education Board 142.85, Ministers' Annuity Board for M. R. and Aid 290.86, " " " " Annuity Fund 531.20, North-West Mission Board 874.36, Grand Ligne Mission Board 445.55.

NOTE—Add to the above the \$5919.38 reported by the Treasurer of the W. B. M. Union and Mission Boards, and the \$306.15 reported by Rev. E. Bosworth, as before stated, and we have as the total from Nova Scotia \$16807.17.

The reading and discussion of the report of the Home Mission Board was taken up and concluded.

Rev. W. H. Warren for the Committee on Resolutions reported the following resolution.

Resolved: That in view of the retirement of Rev. A. Cohoon, M. A., from the position of Corresponding Secretary of the Home Mission Board, this Convention hereby places on record our grateful recognition of the long-continued and faithful service our brother has rendered to the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces in connection with our Home Missionary enterprises. To his painstaking and unremitting efforts, aided by devoted brethren connected with the Home Mission Board has been very largely due, under the blessing of God, the marked progress which for twenty-two years past, has been much in the spiritual development and numerical increase of missionary churches throughout these Provinces. Bro. Cohoon has fully earned our highest confidence and our most cordial esteem.

This resolution was heartily adopted by a standing vote. A number of the brethren also spoke, giving expression to their appreciation of the faithfulness and great value of the services rendered to the Home Mission work by the retiring secretary.

A resolution was moved by Rev. E. M. Saunders, D. D., asking for a committee to consider the matter of inviting the Free Baptists of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to unite with this Convention in the promotion of the work of Foreign Missions and higher education. A committee was appointed as follows: Rev. J. H. Saunders, D. D., Rev. T. Trotter, D. D., Rev. E. M. Saunders, D. D., Rev. J. W. Manning, D. D., Rev. B. N. Nobles and Rev. A. F. Dykeman.

On the motion of Rev. A. H. Lavers, a committee was appointed to consider and report upon the whole subject of our denominational finances. The committee named was as follows: Rev. A. H. Lavers, Rev. Dr. Trotter, Rev. Dr. Manning, Rev. Dr. Kempton, R. N. Beckwith, Rev. A. Cohoon, J. Parsons, A. H. Jones, J. S. Triton, Rev. J. C. Spurr, Rev. B. N. Nobles, C. W. Roscoe and Rev. W. H. Warren.

The report on Home Mission work in New Brunswick was presented by Rev. B. N. Nobles. It was ordered to be read and filed for the information of the body.

The following resolution was moved by Rev. W. H. Warren and presented by Rev. A. Cohoon.

Resolved: That this Convention place on record our very high appreciation of the services rendered to this body in Home Mission work for many years past, by our aged brother, A. C. Robbins, Esq., and W. R. Diddy Esq. The beneficence of Bro. Robbins in contributing to the financial support of Acadia College also deserve grateful recognition. As these brethren are now laid aside by the infirmities of advanced life we hereby tender to them our sincere sympathy and pray that at even tide it may be light for them.

This was heartily adopted. Rev. A. Cohoon reported from the committee on the matter of organic connection of this Convention with the Convention of the Northwest in Home Mission work, advising against such organic union on the ground that the brethren of the Northwest are best qualified to direct that work, and that we can best aid the work by con-